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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00505 01 OF 03 040830Z  
ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	/039W				

-----21C43E 040831Z /38

P 040817Z FEB 94  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5655  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 KIGALI 00505

YAOUNDE FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, RW  
SUBJECT: A/S BENNET MEETS PRIME MINISTERS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.  
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00505 01 OF 03 040830Z

2. SUMMARY. A/S BENNET MET CURRENT AND FUTURE PRIME MINISTERS FEBRUARY 2 FOR A DISCUSSION THAT CENTERED ON DOMESTIC POLITICS. PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE EXPLAINED THAT A GLOBAL COMPROMISE WORKED OUT OVER LAST WEEK AMONG KEY PLAYERS HAD JUST BEEN REJECTED BY LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENCY. BENNET URGED FOCUS ON PROCESS AND BASIC OBJECTIVES AND REMINDED THE PMS THAT SUCCESS IN RWANDA'S PEACEKEEPING OPERATION WOULD BE A SUCCESS FOR PEACEKEEPING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE ALSO NOTED THAT RWANDA

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COULD BE A STRONGER PARTNER AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
IF IT HAD A GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, DOUGLAS J. BENNET, CALLED ON  
PRIME MINISTER AGATHE UWILINGIYIMANA 2/2 TO TALK  
ABOUT PEACEKEEPING AND RWANDA'S ROLE ON THE UN  
SECURITY COUNCIL. INSTEAD, REFLECTING THE CURRENT  
PREOCCUPATION OF ALL RWANDAN AUTHORITIES, THE PRIME  
MINISTER FOCUSED CONVERSATION ON DOMESTIC POLITICS.  
ALSO PRESENT WAS PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE, FAUSTIN  
TWAGIRAMUNGU, OF THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS THE  
CURRENT PM, WHO TOOK THE LION'S SHARE IN EXPLAINING  
RECENT POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS. ACCOMPANYING A/S  
BENNET WERE THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM, NOTETAKER.

POLITICAL DEAL...ALMOST  
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4. PRIME MINISTER AGATHE EXPRESSED HER ANGUISH AT  
THE MONTH-LONG STALEMATE PREVENTING INSTALLATION OF  
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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00505 01 OF 03 040830Z  
THE TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS AND SAID THAT ILLEGAL  
DEMONSTRATIONS, KILLINGS IN KIGALI AND ELSEWHERE, AND  
ECONOMIC DETERIORATION WERE MAKING THE COUNTRY ALMOST  
UNGOVERNABLE. PM-DESIGNATE TWAGIRAMUNGU SAID HE WAS  
ASHAMED THAT RWANDA HAD FAILED TO KEEP ITS PLEDGE AND  
COMMITMENT OF AUGUST 4, THE DATE THE ARUSHA PEACE  
ACCORD WAS SIGNED. HE LAID THE BLAME ON POLITICIANS  
WHO PUT PERSONAL INTERESTS AHEAD OF NATIONAL  
INTERESTS AND ON CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS IN SOME OF  
THE POLITICAL PARTIES, IN PARTICULAR THE LIBERAL  
PARTY (PL) AND THE MDR, THE PARTY OF THE PMS.

5. TWAGIRAMUNGU EXPLAINED THAT A COMPROMISE HAD BEEN  
WORKED OUT AMONG KEY ACTORS OVER THE PAST WEEK TO  
UNBLOCK THE POLITICAL IMPASSE. THE DEAL CONSISTED OF  
ACCEPTING THE INITIAL LIST OF PL DEPUTIES AMENDED TO  
ACCOUNT FOR VOTING IRREGULARITIES, APPOINTING PL  
PRESIDENT MUGENZI TO A CABINET POST, AND INCLUDING  
1-2 MINISTERS FROM THE MDR FACTION OPPOSING  
TWAGIRAMUNGU. HE IMPLIED THAT DETAILS STILL HAD TO  
BE WORKED OUT, BUT CLAIMED THAT PL PRESIDENT MUGENZI,  
PRESIDENTIAL CABINET DIRECTOR RUHIGIRA, AND  
PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL COUNSELOR RENZAHU ALL ACCEPTED  
THE DEAL. (COMMENT. WE LEARNED LATER THAT THE RPF

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AND ITS ALLIES HAVE ALSO AGREED TO THE DEAL.)

DEAL SQUELCHED

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6. TWAGIRAMUNGU TOLD A/S BENNET THAT THE DEAL HAD  
FALLEN APART. IN A MEETING EARLIER 2/2, RUHIGIRA AND  
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PAGE 04 KIGALI 00505 01 OF 03 040830Z  
RBNZAHU HAD REPORTEDLY ACCUSED HIM OF SUPPORTING THE  
RPF AND THE PSD CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
SPEAKER AND TOLD HIM TO STOP MEDDLING IN THE LIBERAL  
PARTY. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRESIDENT'S  
ADVISORS TO BE TELLING HIM THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD  
REJECTED THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

7. THE PM-DESIGNATE ALSO SAID THAT MUGENZI MADE IT  
CLEAR AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE SAME DAY THAT ONLY  
THE SECOND LIST OF PL DEPUTIES WAS ACCEPTABLE.  
(COMMENT. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE MUGENZI APPARENTLY  
MADE A STATEMENT THAT IS UPSETTING A NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE. HE REPORTEDLY COMPARED THE ARUSHA ACCORD TO  
A BIG BOX THAT WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM TANZANIA, BUT

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00505 02 OF 03 040832Z  
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USIE-00 RPE-01 /039W

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P 040817Z FEB 94  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 KIGALI 00505

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WHEN OPENED CONTAINED ONLY A "DEAD DOG". END  
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00505 02 OF 03 040832Z  
COMMENT.)

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT  
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8. TWAGIRAMUNGU TOLD A/S BENNET HE WOULD REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HE HAS MADE ALL THE NECESSARY CONTACTS AND WANTS TO SET THE GOVERNMENT UP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE WOULD ARGUE THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IS DETERIORATING, THE RPF ARE BEING PROVOKED TO RETURN TO WAR, AND RWANDA IS OBLIGED TO REPLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. ONE OPTION WOULD BE TO PROCEED WITHOUT THE BLOCKING PARTY, BUT THAT WOULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR THE ELECTIONS OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS. INSTEAD, HE SAID, HE WOULD ASK THE PRESIDENT TO TELL MUGENZI TO ACCEPT POLITICAL COMPROMISE. THE PRESIDENT, HE SAID, MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN MUGENZI AND THE NATION. EVERYONE IS TIRED. HE ASKED FOR USG UNDERSTANDING.

CONCERN OVER REJECTION

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9. AMBASSADOR RAWSON REITERATED USG INTEREST IN COLLABORATION AMONG ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA ACCORD, AND IMPROVED SECURITY FOR THE POPULATION. HE SAID HE HAD APPEALED TO THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY TO ENCOURAGE MUGENZI TO ACT IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. APPARENT REJECTION OF A DEAL IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

10. TWAGIRAMUNGU SAID HE WANTS A POSITIVE SOLUTION. HE IMPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS HIDING BEHIND THE  
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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00505 02 OF 03 040832Z  
HUTU MAJORITY TO OBTAIN POWER AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BURUNDI SITUATION TO STIR UP FEARS OF TUTSI EXTREMISTS. NORMALLY IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, THE PM-DESIGNATE SAID, THE MAJORITY MUST GIVE ASSURANCES TO THE MINORITY. HERE, THE MAJORITY IS DEMANDING ASSURANCES FROM THE MINORITY, AND THE MINORITY WON'T GIVE THEM.

FOCUS ON PROCESS  
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11. A/S BENNET URGED THE PRIME MINISTERS TO FOCUS ON PROCESS AND ON THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF EQUITY FOR ALL RWANDANS. HE SUGGESTED THEY CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT WHAT THEY VIEW AS DEVIUSNESS MIGHT ALSO REFLECT UNCERTAINTY AND INSECURITY OVER A FUTURE OF UNKNOWNNS. HE SAID ONLY RWANDA CAN SOLVE ITS INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTED RWANDAWS WORK ON ELICITING LEADERSHIP FROM THE PRESIDENT. OLD HABITS, HE SAID, AND FEARS CAN DESTROY THE PROCESS.

ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
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12. A/S BENNET TOLD THE PRIME MINISTERS THAT THE REAL CHALLENGES AHEAD ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL REST WITH THE NEW ISSUES. HE URGED RWANDA TO SUPPORT SANCTIONS IN HAITI AND IRAQ AND CAUTIONED THAT EACH PEACEKEEPING OPERATION (PKO) MUST BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS. THE RWANDAN PKO, HE SAID, HAD BECOME A MODEL; ITS SUCCESS WILL SIGNAL SUCCESS FOR PEACEKEEPING AROUND THE WORLD. FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE THAT GOES WELL BEYOND RWANDA, HE MUSED, MAKES IT ALL  
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PAGE 04 KIGALI 00505 02 OF 03 040832Z  
THE MORE WORTHWHILE. BUT, HE CAUTIONED, WITHOUT A  
GOVERNMENT, IT WILL BE HARD FOR RWANDA TO PLAY AS  
ACTIVE A ROLE ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS THE USG  
WOULD LIKE.

13. IN REPLY, TWAGIRAMUNGU COMMENTED ON THE IRONY OF  
RWANDA STRUGGLING TO HAVE A SEAT ON THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL TO HELP RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD BUT  
NOT BEING ABLE TO RESOLVE ITS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

COMMENT

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14. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL  
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00505 03 OF 03 040833Z  
ACTORS OVER DINNER WITH A/S BENNET INDICATED THAT A  
NUMBER OF THEM INVESTED QUITE HEAVILY IN THE  
COMPROMISE DEAL THAT HAS NOW COLLAPSED. THEY ARE NOW  
LOOKING TO MORE DRASTIC MEASURES, AND MULLING OVER  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF BY-PASSING THE PRESIDENT TO SET  
UP THE TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS. SECURITY, THE RPF  
SAID, THE POTENTIAL FOR A VIOLENT BACKLASH FROM THE  
PRESIDENT'S INTERAHAMWE SUPPORTERS, IS THEIR GREATEST  
CONCERN.

RAWSON

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